

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

In the present Application, Claims 13-16, 18-28, and 32-54 are active. Claims 1-12 were cancelled by a Preliminary Amendment, and Claims 29-31 were withdrawn in response to a Restriction Requirement. The present Amendment amends Claims 13, 15-16, 20, 25, and 27-28; and adds new Claims 32-54 without introducing any new matter, and cancels independent Claim 17 without prejudice or disclaimer.

The May 12, 2010 Office Action rejected Claims 13-17, 20, and 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Enomoto (U.S. Patent No. 7,307,623). Claims 18-19, 21-22, and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enomoto in view of Hashimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,327,163). Claims 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enomoto in view of Young (U.S. Patent No. 5,869,791.)

Applicants' independent Claim 13 is amended to recite "displaying first and second graphical objects on the multi-contact touch screen at first and second object positions, respectively," and "associating first and second specific processing rules to the first and the second graphical objects, respectively." Also, Applicants' independent Claim 13 is further amended to recite that the first and second specific processing rules are applied to the first and second objects, respectively. These features find non-limiting support in Applicants' disclosure as originally filed, for example in Figures 4-5, and in the specification at page 4, paragraph [0015], and at pages 12-13, paragraphs [0069]-[0072]. Independent Claim 20 has been amended to recite analogous features in the context of a device to control a computerized apparatus.

Moreover, dependent Claims 15-16, 25, and 27-28 are amended to reflect the changes

made to the respective independent claims, and dependent Claim 17 is cancelled for having features that conflict with the features of independent Claim 13.

In addition, new dependent Claims 32-54 are added. New dependent Claims 32 and 33 depend from independent Claims 13 and 20, respectively, and recite that “the first specific processing rule is different from the second specific processing rule, and the first specific processing rule is not applied to the second graphical object.” These features find non-limiting support in Applicants’ disclosure as originally filed, for example in the specification at least at pages 13-14, paragraph [0074]. New dependent Claims 35-41 recite features related to the first processing rule, and find non-limiting support in at least Applicants’ specification at pages 14-16. New dependent Claims 42-45 recite features related to the interaction law when the first graphical object is located inside another graphical object, and find non-limiting support in at least Applicants’ specification at paragraphs [0086] and [0092], and in Figures 7-9. New dependent Claims 46-50 recite features related to the first specific processing rule that find non-limiting support in at least Applicants’ specification at paragraphs [0071]. Moreover, new dependent Claims 51-53 recite features related to a switch between a graphical user interface that includes the first and the second graphical objects and another graphical user interface, and these features find non-limiting support in at least Applicants’ specification at paragraph [0081]. No new matter has been added.

New independent Claim 54 is added, reciting features related to the detection of a touch zone from two touch points, and a third touch point. These features find non-limiting support in Applicants’ disclosure as originally filed, for example in the specification at least at page 15, paragraph [0079]. Again, no new matter has been added.

In response to the rejection of Claims 13-17, 20, and 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections and traverse the rejections, as discussed next.

Briefly summarizing, Applicants' independent Claim 13 is directed to a method for controlling a computerized device by a multi-contact touch screen. The method includes the steps of displaying first and second graphical objects on the multi-contact touch screen at first and second object positions, respectively; associating first and second specific processing rules to the first and the second graphical objects, respectively; detecting first and second touch points on the multi-contact touch screen and defining first and second touch positions for the first and second touch points, respectively; applying the first specific processing rule of the first graphical object as a function of a relative position between the first touch position and the first object position; applying the second specific processing rule of the second graphical object as a function of a relative position between the second touch position and the second object position; and modifying at least one of the first graphical object or the first object position based on a result of said applying the first specific processing rule; and modifying at least one of the second graphical object or the second object position based on a result of said applying the second specific processing rule.

Turning now to the applied prior art references, Enomoto is directed to a device 1 having a touch-panel 16 located over a display unit 15. that is configured to detect coordinate values and changes of coordinate values of a plurality of touch points. (Enomoto, Abstract, Figs. 2, 4.) Enomoto explains that first a coordinate value of a first touch point is detected. (Enomoto, Step S1, col. 4, ll. 54-59, Fig. 5.) Thereafter, his device 1 can evaluate whether the coordinate value of the first touch point is located close enough to an object 31 that is shown on the display 16. (Enomoto, Step S2, col. 4, ll. 60-63, Fig. 5.) Data corresponding to the object 31 is then designated as "user-specified data," and can be saved in memory 12 of the device. (Enomoto, from col. 4, l. 63, to col. 5, l. 5, Fig. 5, Step S3.)

Moreover, in Enomoto, it is possible to press the touch-panel 16 at two touch points "a" and "b," to define a line between points "a" and "b." (Enomoto, col. 5, ll. 12-15, Figs.

7A, 7B, Fig. 5.) Based on the location of points “a” and “b,” an area 40 is defined, and by moving the position of “a” and “b,” all the objects 31 inside the area 40 on display 15 can be moved interactively by the user. (Enomoto, col. 5, ll. 12-42.) Enomoto also explains that the area 40 can be defined by connecting three or more user-specified points, for example when the user operates the touch-panel 16 with multiple fingers. (Enomoto, col. 6, ll. 14-18.) In other words, a user of Enomoto’s device is capable of selecting points 31 to store underlying data to a memory 12, or to select and move a plurality of objects 31. However, Enomoto fails to teach all the features of Applicants’ amended independent Claim 13. In particular, Enomoto fails to teach the following features:

- displaying first and second graphical objects on the multi-contact touch screen at first and second object positions, respectively;
- associating first and second specific processing rules to the first and the second graphical objects, respectively;
- detecting first and second touch points on the multi-contact touch screen and defining first and second touch positions for the first and second touch points, respectively;
- applying the first specific processing rule of the first graphical object*** as a function of a relative position between the first touch position and the first object position;
- applying the second specific processing rule of the second graphical object*** as a function of a relative position between the second touch position and the second object position.

(Claim 13, portions omitted, emphasis added.) In other words, Applicants’ independent Claim 13 requires that the first and second processing rules are *specific* to the first and second graphical objects, respectively. No such feature is taught by Enomoto.

The remaining references Hashimoto and Young, used by the pending Office Action to form a 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection, fail to remedy the deficiencies of Enomoto, even if we assume that the combination is proper. Hashimoto is directed to a display position reading apparatus having an improved read-out accuracy. (Hashimoto, Abstract.) The reference Young is directed to a touch sensitive device that is made of a plurality of individually operable touch sensing elements having first and second overlapped conductive layers.

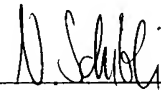
(Young, Abstract.) However, both these references fail to teach anything related to the displaying of objects and the applying of object-specific processing rules to them. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse, and request reconsideration of this rejection based on these references.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 13-16, 18-28, and 32-54 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

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